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NOTE ON THE SOLAR ECLIPSE OF MAY 28TH.

This eclipse was witnessed by the editor and his friend, Mr. Abel, from the campus of Tulane University of New Orleans, La. The atmospheric and meteorological conditions for observing this interesting phenomenon was most favorable. In the morning, at sun rise, the eastern sky was skirted with clouds, but by the time the first contact occurred, these had sunk nearer the horizon so as to leave the sun in a perfectly clear sky. First contact occurred at 6:25 A. M. ; the second at 7:30; the third at 7:31 minutes 12 seconds, and the fourth at 8:43. Thus the period of totality was 1 minute and 12 seconds. Such a short period of totality did not give much time for the observation of those interesting phenomena attending an eclipse, viz., the "shadow bands" or "fringes," the corona, prominences, etc.

Prof. Ayers of the Tulane University had been making extensive preparations for the event for several months and during the time of the eclipse, took every precaution to eliminate as far as possible all sources of error. To this end it was ordered that visitors should not be allowed to approach the observatory nearer than 100 yards. This precaution was taken, since the motion, caused by the moving about of the visitors on the shallow crust of the earth here floating on a watery bed would be easily transmitted to the observatory and thus effect the instruments used in making observations. Professors Hume, Fulton, and Johnson, of the University of Mississippi, brought their astronomical instruments with them to Tulane University and coöperated in their observations with the Tulane University men.

It was through the courtesy of Prof. Hume that the editor was admitted to the sacred precincts of that eager and enthusiastic band of scientists, and through the courtesy of Professor Johnson was also permitted to take a view of the eclipsed sun with the instrument with which he was working.

The darkness was not as intense as one might suppose and not as dark as on previous occasions. The corona was very beautiful, though perhaps not so beautiful as has been seen during previous eclipses. Instead of streaming out on all sides, radiant filaments, beams, and sheets of pearly light, forming an irregular stellate halo, there appeared this time only a broad band of light lying in the direction in which the moon crossed the sun. The corona, therefore, had a marked resemblance to the corona of 1867. The "shadow bands" were quite clear to be seen at the time of totality. Whether a satisfactory explanation of their origin and nature has been discovered remains to be seen. Mr. Abel made several photographic exposures, but with what success is not yet known. Thorough and detailed accounts of this eclipse together with the results of the numerous observations made throughout the country, of course, will be given in the various Astronomical journals.

May 29, 1900.